

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 037845 TOSEC 020119
ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00
CCO-00 /024 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:JCHAMBERLAIN:JC
APPROVED BY PA:WDYESS
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
PA, S/S, S/PRS

-----182114 100507 /63
O 182049Z FEB 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 037845 TOSEC 020119

NO. 5 FOR CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: MEDIA MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT MARVIN KALB, CBS RADIO, FIRST LINE
REPORT, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18 TITLED "A CONCUSSION BOMB THAT
BOMBED OUT."

2. IT COULD PROBABLY BE ARGUED THAT IN THE BIG SCHEME OF
THINGS IN THE MIDDLE EAST ONE BOMB MORE OR LESS MAKES
LITTLE DIFFERENCE. BUT THIS BOMB, CALLED THE CBU-72, IS
A PARTICULARLY DREADFUL INSTRUMENT OF WAR. WHEN DROPPED
AND DETONATED ABOVE GROUND, IT CAN LITERALLY DESTROY
BUNKERS, AIRPLANE HANGERS AND PROTECTION, AND OF COURSE,
ANYONE WHO HAPPENS TO BE NEARBY. SIMILAR BOMBS WERE
DROPPED BY THE UNITED STATES ALL OVER INDOCHINA.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 037845 TOSEC 020119

3. LAST YEAR, THE U.S. AND ISRAEL DISCUSSED THE POSSI-
BILITY OF ISRAEL BUYING THE CBU-72. THE PENTAGON MAIN-
TAINS THAT NO FOREIGN GOVERNMENT HAD EVER BEEN ALLOWED TO
BUY THAT BOMB. THE PENTAGON, ALWAYS CONCERNED ABOUT
DEPLETED INVENTORIES--IMAGINED OR REAL--WAS RELUCTANT TO
SELL THE CBU TO ISRAEL OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY. THE STATE

DEPARTMENT OPPOSED THE SALE, TOO, FEARING THAT IT MIGHT

UPSET THE PROSPECTS OF PEACE TALKS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. BUT FORMER PRESIDENT FORD, ENCOURAGED BY FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER, DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH THE SALE ANYWAY. IT WAS SAID AT THE TIME THAT FORD WAS MOTIVATED BY POLITICAL FACTORS, THAT THE ELECTION WAS A FEW WEEKS AWAY AND HE WANTED TO ATTRACT JEWISH VOTERS, AND THAT KISSINGER WAS MOTIVATED BY A DESIRE TO BUILD UP ISRAELI MILITARY MIGHT SO THAT, FIRST, ISRAELI LEADERS WOULD FEEL MORE CONFIDENT ABOUT MAKING TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS, AND SECOND, ARAB LEADERS WOULD THINK TWICE ABOUT REPEATING A SURPRISE ASSAULT AGAINST ISRAEL. ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, A PRESIDENTIAL COMMITMENT WAS MADE. ISRAEL TOOK IT SERIOUSLY, AND FULLY EXPECTED THE SALE TO GO FORWARD.

4. DURING THE INTERREGNUM BETWEEN ONE ADMINISTRATION AND ANOTHER, ISRAELIS WERE GIVEN THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT THE NEW PRESIDENT WOULD HONOR THE COMMITMENTS OF THE OUTGOING ONE, THAT AMERICA'S WORD DID NOT DEPEND UPON INCUMBENCY, BUT UPON VALUES OF MORE LASTING DURATION. BUT SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, THE STATE DEPARTMENT REVIEWED ITS OPTIONS, AND DECIDED THAT IT COULD TAKE ANOTHER CRACK AT THE CONCUSSION BOMB SALE TO ISRAEL, OPERATING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD PLEDGED HIMSELF TO CUTTING DOWN GENERALLY ON ALL ARMS SALES, AND WHATEVER ITS POLITICAL MERITS, HERE WAS ONE THAT COULD AND SHOULD BE CANCELLED, THE FORD COMMITMENT NOTWITHSTANDING. SECRETARY VANCE WAS PERSUADED OF THE DEPARTMENT'S LOGIC, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 037845 TOSEC 020119

AND THEN, THE PRESIDENT, TOO. HIS DECISION, IT SAID, WAS MADE A FEW DAYS AGO, AND IT WAS COMMUNICATED TO THE ISRAELIS BY SECRETARY VANCE DURING HIS VISIT TO JERUSALEM THIS WEEK. THE WHITE HOUSE MADE IT PUBLIC YESTERDAY, EXPLAINING THAT, IN ITS JUDGMENT, THIS WEAPON IS NOT NECESSARY FOR ISRAELI SECURITY, THAT IT WILL NOT BE SOLD TO ANY OTHER COUNTRY EITHER, AND THAT IT MAY EVEN BE ELIMINATED FROM THE AMERICAN MILITARY ARSENAL.

5. THE WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN, JODY POWELL, SAID THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION IS INTERESTED IN THE GREATEST DEGREE OF CONTINUITY IN FOREIGN POLICY THAT IS POSSIBLE. BUT THAT DID NOT MEAN IT COULD NOT CHANGE ITS MIND ABOUT INDIVIDUAL ITEMS. LOGICALLY, THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THIS IS TRUE. IT MAKES PERFECT POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC SENSE. BUT THIS DECISION TOOK PLACE AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF TWO FACTORS: FIRST, THE SECRETARY'S TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST--VANCE WAS PUT IN THE POSITION OF HAVING TO BREAK THE BAD NEWS TO THE ISRAELIS AT THE SAME TIME AS HE

THEN BENEFITED FROM HAVING THE WHITE HOUSE BREAK THE NEWS
ON HIS ARRIVAL IN EGYPT; SECOND, IN ANY PEACE SETTLEMENT,

THE CRUCIAL ELEMENT FOR ISRAELI POLITICIANS IS SECURITY,
AND ISRAELIS BASE THEIR JUDGMENT OF SECURITY LARGELY ON
AMERICA'S WORD. WILL IT BE HONORED, OR WILL IT BE
FINESSED? (END TEXT.)

HARTMAN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TEXT, TOSEC, BOMBS (ORDNANCE)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE037845
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JCHAMBERLAIN:JC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770059-0256
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770226/aaaaawwr.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 618d7cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3278196
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA MATERIAL
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/618d7cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009